

REMARKS

This Amendment is made in response to the Final Office Action dated June 23, 2004. Claims 1-16 were pending in this application.

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled without prejudice claims 1, 7 and 11 with the right to pursue these or similar claims in a divisional application.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 8, 9 and 12 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, in this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 6, 8 and 12 in independent form. Additionally, claims 2, 3 and 5, which were previously dependent from independent claim 1, have been amended to depend from claim 6 in view of the cancellation of claim 1. Also, claim 10, which was previously dependent on independent claim 7, has now been amended to depend from claim 8 in view of the cancellation of claim 7.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4 and 13-16 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectively urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

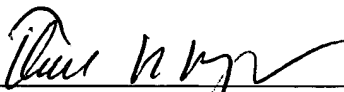
REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicant respectfully requests a one-month extension of time to respond to the Final Office Action dated June 23, 2004, in the above-identified application.

The requisite fee of \$110.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed herewith.
Please charge any additional fee or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account
No. 06-2425. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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